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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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DPHSS to Issue CDC Foundation-Donated Mosquito Repellent Sprays in Village Drives Throughout Guam

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announced today it will kick off a village-to-village drive to issue 5,000 mosquito repellent pump sprays to the vulnerable population in Guam. The two-week drive begins on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, and will end on Friday, Jan. 31, with the Point-in-Time Count of the Guam homeless population. The news media is invited to attend the kick-off event with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, at Northern Region Community Health Center, New Waiting Room, in Dededo.

DPHSS received a donation from the CDC Foundation, which is an independent nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress to mobilize philanthropic partners and private-sector resources to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's critical health protection mission. The mosquito repellent pump sprays were donated to the CDC Foundation and shipped to Guam by SC Johnson.

The donation from the CDC Foundation will help the community protect themselves from the dengue virus and continue efforts to reduce cases of the dengue virus.

The CDC Foundation took immediate action to aid Guam after DPHSS Director Linda Unpingco DeNorcey personally appealed to the president and CEO of the CDC Foundation during her official meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, while Guam was in the initial stages of combating dengue. The first locally acquired case of dengue was confirmed in September 2019.

"We're working with wonderful partners in our community that includes Mayor Melissa Savares and the Mayors' Council of Guam, Guam Department of Education, Catholic Social Services, the Veterans Administration, WestCare, Guam Homeless Coalition, faith-based organizations, and the Salvation Army to help distribute this generous donation from the CDC Foundation. Together, we will deliver these repellent pump sprays to 19 villages, and help teach our vulnerable population on how to properly apply the mosquito repellent and safeguard against mosquito bites," said DPHSS Director DeNorcey.

The dengue virus is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito and cannot spread directly from person-to-person. Anyone who lives in, or travels to an area where dengue virus is found can get it from mosquito bites. The community is advised to avoid mosquito bites and eliminate mosquito breeding sites to help stop the spread of dengue virus.

Dengue Fever Symptoms

See your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following symptoms of dengue fever: fever, aches and pains, rash, or bleeding (including mild bleeding from nose or gums). Visit your nearest hospital emergency room if you experience any of the following symptoms of severe dengue fever: severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, significant bleeding, lethargy or restlessness. To diagnose dengue, a healthcare provider may order blood tests to look for dengue. A blood test is the only way to confirm the diagnosis.



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